

<b>Code</b>	517047
<b>Subject</b>	Patty Schwalbach
<b>Date</b>	6/23/2008
<b>Interviewer</b>	Rhonda Yaxley
<b>Special Notes</b>	

**minutes:**

Background: born Akron, OH 1954, lived first 25yrs, moved to LosAngeles, CA  
0 for next 25 yrs., returned to Akron 2005, now lives on Portage Lakes  
loves the green, natural, water environment of Ohio, Great Grandfather "Canal  
1 Rat" think traveled coal  
canal in blood, father's nickname for her is "Skipper", work for city of Akron's  
2 Housing Inspector, laid off  
1978-79's New Ice Age snow and cold, young good open career, went to LA, job  
3 Aerospace, grad 1976 Univ. of Akron degree Mass Communication

graduated degree Univ. Southern California in System Management, childhood  
4 remembers76 freeway acrid stinky smell of rubber, smell of money for this town  
First involvement with Cascade Locks Parks: large file as housing inspector,  
1978, describes the vacant overgrown lot sited for demolition by the city but  
5 must contact owner first  
hard to find owner of property, she was determined, met Pete Ramnytz, a  
6 collector of junk, wore WWII German Helmet  
used property on Ferndale to store his collection from his junkyard job, Pete was  
7 proud of property, city wanted to raze  
Pete tried to convince 24 year old Patty that site was historical, she saw a dump,  
Pete led her to the canal, she saw weeds but saw a cut stone quarried rocks,  
8 Pete was pretty convincing

Sally took story back to city supervisor, returned to tell Pete city billing him \$500,  
Pete still insisting historical value, property file given to another city worker, Sally  
9 has strange allure, property becoming almost her secret garden  
laid off, moved to CA, visited property when in town, parents kept her informed,  
group formed and saved property, Life lesson: Pete may have looked and  
10 sounded like a kook but had sense of historical record  
Citizens group leader, Virginia Vojno and Walter Shep significance of historical  
11 building, National Park, Erie Canal Coalitions  
Land set aside land between Locks, building city was trying to raze was the  
Mustill family store, First thing Sally did when returned to Akron 2005 was  
12 volunteer at the store & organization  
Other people have also experiences a "pull" to the property, CLPA slogan  
13 "Green spaces meeting urban places"  
glad to see dedicated efforts of Ohio to expand green space and clean up, give  
14 public access  
15 State needs to exploit the green belt, tourism  
CLPA volunteer: Store greeter, gets lots of school kids, make sure understand  
16 Akron exists because of the canal  
historical background info of building canal: rivers and lakes importance, vision  
17 of engineers  
18 Historical information: people and economy

- 19 historical information: trip, 15 locks, traveling took time developed community
- 20 Historical information: Water chase, Schumacher  
Historical information: recognitions of historical site, community involvement
- 21 working together, funding of renovation  
Volunteer of store: 4 hours/week to organization, husband and Sally publish
- 22 newsletter, marketing committee
- 23 Store greeter often ask where to eat - compiled brochure and map
- 24 Suggest Akron need to respond better to the attraction of the park  
CLPA diverse group, ecology, historical, revitalize downtown area compelling to
- 25 work with  
Hot Jazz celebration on Howard Street a piece of the past, major campaign for
- 26 Mill Site development
- 27 Chuck Ayers has designed the statue for this site, waterwheel
- 28 information about Mill site development  
Hot Jazz usually third week of August (Aug. 20, 2008), collaborated with C.
- 29 Valley Line mini jazz show week later (Aug. 20, 2008)  
Memorable experience: June 22 the son of Pete Ramnytz came to Mustill Store,  
shared about the 'water well' pit in front of store was a pit for his father to repair  
cars, Stephen Ramnytz, 72 years old, visiting until July 1 has deed of priority to
- 30 the organization
- 31 Stephen Ramnytz has original deed for property to give to organization
- 32 original focus clean up and restoration, environmental science
- 33 City sewers still connected to the Little Cuyahoga and street runoff  
Vision born from a management meeting: 1999 in aerospace meeting, said
- 34 wanted return to Akron to revitalize the canal area
- 35 Urban boaters a fantasy, but towpath makes connections and fellowship  
story of great grandfather from father, but no details, assume true, Pete
- 36 Schwalbach  
area of Akron, life lesson, dependent on canal, flour mills, rubber companies,
- 37 Akron remains
- 38 area able to reinvent self, believe  
Hot Jazz, technology use of knowledge of husband and self, professional
- 39 looking program
- 40 revenue about \$20,000 from Hot Jazz, volunteer hours
- 41 Cuyahoga Valley Coalition, volunteer hours can be transferred into funding  
Educational arrangements for schools, others - Bridget Garvin & Roman
- 42 McTaggart  
Sally's historical piece: trying to tear it down and feeling bad about it now, gung-
- 43 ho at age 24 yrs!  
A dump site, Pete showing the big stones as a turning point, "why didn't hear the
- 44 water"  
  
Pete able to find someone in city with clout to identify as historic site, Stephen
- 45 Ramneytz said Everheart from city, wife was head of Akron Historical Society  
growing up: North Hill, Elliot, Green, Walnut Street, never saw place until file as a
- 46 housing complaint
- 47 kept track via Beacon Journal while in California  
past twenty years watching progress of Mustill Store, Portage Lakes youth
- 48 canoeing, backyard on channel

personal hobby: clean up trash on shoreline of Portage Lakes "Cycle - People  
49 see, they leave trash, if people don't see trash they don't leave trash"  
50 Less trash: due to her efforts, or are people more ecologically conscience  
Positive experience about everything, organization uses volunteers by their  
51 talents, their best  
52 Father is proud of "Skipper" and wants grandfather's canal connection told  
".....I believe that community involvement is the pathway of happiness"  
Preservation and restoration of Green belt through center of state makes sense,  
53 ecologically, community health and fellowship  
"Don't give up hope. Revitalize. Re-invent. Life goes on." from shameful to  
54 enlightened  
55 Transformation from shameful to enlightened  
56 Found junk: antique fire truck, White truck  
57 discussion about project  
58 Stephen Ramneytz played in canal as child, no fish  
59 continued discussion about project people being interviewed  
60 continued small talk  
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